



**Barry E. A. Johnson**  
**Senior Advisor and Director of Strategic Initiatives**

Barry Johnson serves as Senior Advisor and Director of Strategic Initiatives for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce.

With over 15 years of experience as a senior executive forming public/private partnerships, Barry leads EDA's strategic partnership programs, collaborating with the White House, other federal agencies and regional leaders to implement innovative regional solutions to improve competitiveness and foster economic growth throughout the nation.

Prior to this role, he was founder and managing principal at Acres Development a public-private real estate development and advisory firm, and vice president of the Public Sector Division of the Staubach Company. Barry also has an extensive background in starting innovative new businesses, having led a joint venture between Microsoft and BET. He also created the interactive entertainment division for Sony Music Entertainment's Epic Records Group. Mr. Johnson also started successful new businesses within the Walt Disney Company and BMG Music Group. Leveraging his background in investment banking, Barry also successfully secured venture capital to syndicate web content to niche audiences globally.

Committed to giving back through volunteerism, Barry is an active mentor, motivational speaker on college campuses nationally, and is a volunteer instructor for the Inner City Adult Entrepreneurship program at the Harrison Institute of Georgetown Law.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Barry earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School after receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science from Yale College.